

Biographical Summary of ATHENA TACHA

Born in Larissa, Greece, 1936 (U.S. citizen since 1969).  
 Professor of Sculpture, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio (1973 to present).  
 Address: 291 Forest Street, Oberlin, Ohio, 44074 (tel: 216/ 774-7535).

**DEGREES**

Ph.D. in Aesthetics, University of Paris (Sorbonne), France, 1963.  
 M.A. in Art History, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1961.  
 M.A. in Sculpture, National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, 1959.

**LARGE-SCALE PERMANENT COMMISSIONS**

Connections, 1981-89, one city-block park with terraced gardens, Franklin Town, Philadelphia, PA (in progress).

Double Star: Antares, 1986-88, open brickwork maze, 10 x 56 x 64 ft., Cincinnati (Hyde Park), OH.

Link, 1986-87, buff concrete, red granite and inscriptions, 12 x 27 x 33 ft., University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Green Acres, 1985-87, buff brick, green slate, photo-sandblasted green granite and plants, ca. 3 x 77 x 85 ft., Department of Environmental Protection courtyard, Trenton, NJ. 1% for art program (in progress).

Merqino, 1985-86, granite and waterfalls, ca. 8 x 71 x 83 ft., Case-Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

Marianthe, 1985-86, open brickwork, cedar benches, planter, ca. 9 x 45 x 55 ft., University of South Florida, Fort Myers, FL.

Findlay Memorial Portal, 1985, granite, sandstone, and photo-sandblasted images and inscriptions, 10 x 3 x 8 ft., Municipal Bldg. Mall, Findlay, OH.

Chloe, 1985, sandstone, ca. 7 x 15 x 18 ft., Municipal Bldg., Findlay, OH.

Ice Walls, 1983-84, glass block, 4 x 26 x 20 ft., Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, AK. 1% for art program.

Double Scales, 1983, sandstone, 6 x ca. 15 x 18 ft., V.A. Hospital, Coatesville, PA.

Crossings, 1982, painted galvanized steel, ca. 10 x 115 x 150 ft., International Airport, Columbus, OH. TEMPORARILY DESTROYED.

Blair Fountain, 1981-82, concrete, rocks and water, ca. 30 x 60 x 80 ft., Low Water Dam Riverfront Park, Tulsa, OK.

Leaning Arches, 1980-82, painted corten, 16 x ca. 20 x 40 ft., Douglas Road Metrorail Station, Miami, FL.

Stepped Boogie-Woogie (Homage to Mondrian), 1982, brick relief, 26 x 29 x 5 ft., Woodinville High School, Seattle, WA.

Curving Arcades (Homage to Bernini), 1980-81, painted corten, 16 x 50 x 74 ft., University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. National Endowment for the Arts matching grant.

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Ripples, 1978-79, white concrete, 3 x 30 x 80 ft., Federal Office Bldg., Granby Mall and City Hall Avenue, Norfolk, VA. Commissioned by the General Services Administration.



Tide Park, 1976, gunite, plants, water and mural, 14 x 75 x 30 ft.,  
 Smithtown, L.I., NY. Funded by the New York State Arts Council and  
 the N.E.A. DISCLAIMED IN 1987, DUE TO UNAUTHORIZED ALTERATIONS.

Streams, 1975-76, sandstone, pumice rocks and lake pebbles, 10 x 30 x 20  
 ft., Vine Street Park, Oberlin, OH. National Endowment for the Arts  
 and Ohio Arts Council grants.

Tension Arches, 1975-76, painted stainless steel, 12 x 24 x 2 ft., Huron  
 Road Mall, Cleveland, OH. Cleveland Area Arts Council Bicentennial  
 Sculpture Commission.

#### ONE-ARTIST EXHIBITIONS

New Works, 1986-1989, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art (Galleria),  
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Public Works, 1970-1988, A Retrospective Exhibition, High Museum of Art,  
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Fragmentation, Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1981.

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Tape Installation, Akron Art Institute, Akron, OH, 1979.

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Rutgers University, Douglass College Library, New Brunswick, NJ, 1977.

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 Gallery, Cambridge, MA, 1974.

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 (including films).

Sculpture in Paper and Twine, Cooper School of Art, Cleveland OH, 1971  
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Forms of Matter, New Gallery, Cleveland, OH, 1969 (benefit show for  
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Akron Art Institute, Akron, OH, 1969.

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The Artist as Social Designer: Aspects of Urban Art Today, Los Angeles  
 County Museum, Los Angeles, 1985.

Land Marks: New Site Proposals by 22 Original Pioneers of Environmental  
 Art, Edith Blum Art Institute, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY,  
 1984 (cat., col. ill.).

Connections, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania,  
 Philadelphia, 1983.

Akron Collaboration: Artists and Architects, Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH,  
 1983.

Photographs in Sequence, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, 1982.



- Gina Brand and Athena Tacha, National City Bank, Cleveland, OH, 1982.
- Transitions II: Landscape/Sculpture (five artists), Amelie Wallace Gallery, SUNY College, Old Westbury, L.I., NY, 1981.
- Artists' Gardens and Parks, Hayden Galleries, M.I.T., Cambridge, MA, 1981; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, 1981.
- Drawings: The Pluralist Decade, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1980.
- 39th Venice Biennale; "Drawings: The Pluralist Decade," American Pavillion, Venice, Italy, June 1 - Sept. 30, 1980 (subsequently travelled to Spain, Portugal, and Norway).
- Across the Nation: Fine Art for Federal Buildings, 1972 - 79; National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, 1980; Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, TN, 1981.
- Scapes: Seven Ohio Landscape Artists, Tangeman Fine Arts Gallery, University of Cincinnati, 1980 (subsequently travelled in other Ohio museums through 1981).
- Urban Encounters: Art, Architecture, Audience; Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1980.
- Artwords and Bookworks, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, 1978. (Travelled subsequently to Franklin Furnace, New York, 1978; Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, IN, 1978; Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, 1978).
- Proposals for Sawyer Point, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati, OH, 1977.
- Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Miss, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1977.
- 2nd Intern. Festival of Women's Films, Cinema Studio, New York, 1976.
- Scott Burton, Athena Tacha, George Trakas; Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY, 1976.
- Sculpture 76 (15 large outdoor sculptures); Greenwich, CN, 1976.
- Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Tacha; C.U.N.Y, Graduate Center Mall, New York, 1975.
- Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1975.
- Nine Artists: Women's Invitational, N.O.V.A. Gallery, Cleveland, OH, 1975.
- Spring Invitational: Cynthia Carlson, Joyce Kozloff, Athena Tacha, Ann Wilson; A.I.R. Gallery, New York, 1974.
- Ca. 7,500 (organized by Lucy Lippard), Valencia, CA; Hartford, CN; Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; Northampton, MA; Minneapolis, MN; London, England; New York, NY; Seattle, WA; Poughkeepsie, NY; 1973 - 1974.
- Six Artists, Akron Art Institute, Akron, OH, 1972 - 1973.
- Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Blossom Music Center, Peninsula, OH, 1971.
- All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH, 1969, 1970, 1974.
- May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1979, 1984 (first prize: 1968, 1971 & 1979).

#### LITERATURE (selected)

- Catherine and John Howett, Athena Tacha: Public Works, 1970-88, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 1989, ill. (color).



- Forms of Chaos: Drawings by Athena Tacha, 1974-86, Oberlin, OH, ill.
- Lucy Lippard, "Athena Tacha's Public Sculpture", Arts Magazine, Oct. 1988, pp. 68-71, ill. (color).
- Ellen H. Johnson, "Athena Tacha: Merging," Dialogue, Nov.-Dec., pp. 35-36, ill.
- Steven Rosen, "Women Are Reshaping the Field of Public Art," New York Times, Sunday, Nov. 8, 1987, NYC ed. p. 78 (Nat. ed. p. 36), ill.
- Joan Marter, "Athena Tacha's Sculpture: Outdoor Sites Transformed", Sculpture, July-August 1987, pp. 12-15, ill. (color).
- Athena Tacha, "Waterfronts as Site Sculpture," Design + Art in Greece, pp. 157-61, ill.
- John Beardsley, Earthworks and Beyond, Abbeville Press, New York, 1984, pp. 112-114, ill. (color).
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- Theodore F. Wolff, "Artist Athena Tacha," Christian Science Monitor, April 9, 1981, p. 18, ill.
- Ellen H. Johnson, "Nature as Source of Athena Tacha's Art," Artforum, Jan. 1981, pp. 58-62, ill.
- Mark Stevens et al., "Sculpture Out in the Open," Newsweek, Aug. 18, 1980, pp. 70-71, ill. (color).
- Don Thalacker, The Place of Art in the World of Architecture, Chelsea House, N.Y., 1979, pp. 209-210.
- Thalia Gouma-Peterson, "Rhythms in Space: An Installation," Dialogue, Nov.-Dec. 1979, pp. 32-33, ill.
- Monica Williams, "Athena Tacha, Sculptor," Plain Dealer Magazine (Cleveland), Aug. 26, 1979, pp. 36-43, ill.
- Eleanor Munro, The Originals: Women in Art, Simon and Schuster, 1979, pp. 292-293, ill.
- Athena Tacha, "Rhythm as Form," Landscape Architecture, May 1978, pp. 196-205, ill. (color). Reprinted in New Performance (San Francisco), I, 3, 1978, pp. 18-23.
- Van Foley (interviewer), "Three Sculptors: Helen Escobedo, Lila Katzen, Athena Tacha," New Orleans Review, V, 3, 1977, pp. 224-233, ill.
- Lucy Lippard, "Art Outdoors, In and Out of the Public Domain," Studio International, 3, March-April 1977, p. 85, ill.
- Catherine Howett, "New Directions in Environmental Art," Landscape Architecture, Jan. 1977, pp. 39, 41, ill. (color).
- A. Sky & M. Stone (SITE), Unbuilt America (Intro by G. R. Collins), McGraw-Hill, New York, 1976, p. 242, ill.
- Lucy Lippard, From the Center, Dutton, New York, 1976, p. 146, ill.
- Ellen H. Johnson, Modern Art and the Object, Thames and Hudson, London,



1976, p. 47, pl. 55.

Elizabeth McClelland, "Step-Sculptures of Athena Tacha," Mid-West Art, II, 10, Feb. 1976, pp. 14-15, ill.

Tara Collins, "Athena Tacha," Arts Magazine, Nov. 1975, p. 11, ill.

Lawrence Alloway, "Artists as Writers, II: The Realm of Language," Artforum, April 1974, pp. 33, 35, ill.

Ellen H. Johnson, "Art and Science: Athena Tacha's Evening Exhibition," Fine Arts (Cleveland), Nov. 3, 1969, p. 5.

(This biographical summary does not include any of the artist's "conceptual art" publications and films, or any of her activities as an art historian and museum curator, 1963-73, as Athena T. Spear.)



WORKS OWNED BY THE FOLLOWING MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

Allen Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio

Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, New York

Agnes Gund Collection, New York

Paul Walter Collection, New York

Ellen Johnson Collection, Oberlin, Ohio

Katherine White (Merkel-Reswick), Los Angeles, California

Robert Light Collection, Santa Barbara, California

Robert Morris, New York

Graham Gund Collection, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Lucy Lippard Collection, New York

Yannis Xenakis, Paris

Parks & Christie Campbell Collection, Fort Worth, Texas

Louise Nevelson, New York

Robert G. Donneley Collection, Chicago, Illinois

Katharine Kuh Collection, New York

Nancy Singer Collection, St. Louis, Missouri

Doris Wiener Collection, New York

Suzi Gablik Collection, London

Power Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.

University of Utah Art Gallery, Salt Lake City, Utah

Prudential Insurance

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott-Brown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Victor Ganz, New York

(and many other private collections)



## STATEMENT

As an artist whose work matured during the social upheavals of the late sixties, I feel that, given the present state of the world, it would be morally untenable to pursue an art career unless one makes art available to everybody (not only the financially or educationally privileged). One way of achieving this aim is to bring art into the urban environment and to endow it with a social function (such as being a public plaza, a recreation or picnic area, etc.). Another way is to make art approachable by avoiding deliberate offensiveness and by allowing the work to be attractive. I am not interested in shocking the middle class ("épater le bourgeois"), and I am not afraid of beauty. Rendering art functional or beautiful does not need to entail an artistic compromise -- it merely makes artless of an act of self-indulgence. Adopting an architectural vocabulary of familiar and in<sup>n</sup>ocuous elements (such as steps, arcades or ramps) is simply offering the public a hand to help them cross the river of "understanding" art, or at least feeling at ease with it. I believe this is a crucial difference in attitude between artists who matured in the early sixties, such as the minimal and earth sculptors, and my artistic generation. Only this <sup>new</sup> attitude can engender truly public art.

I was led to make sculpture on a landscape scale by several needs: to create a kind of form which could be experienced not only visually, but through body-locomotion as well; to make art that would not be at odds with nature and its organizing methods; and to endow it with a social function such as it used to have in past cultures. My sculpture can, for instance, embellish and render "natural" riverbanks destroyed by industry or junk-yards. Condensing the beauty of nature and bringing it into our daily environment is one way for art to serve its humanizing purpose in today's society.

Athena Tacha (1980)



OCT 10 1990

291 Forest St.  
Oberlin, Ohio 44074  
(216) 774-7535

Sept. 30, 90

Dear Tom:

I enclose slides of: 1) my two most recent executed commissions (those works take years to complete); 2) my three most important new commissions (<sup>2</sup> won in competitions) — in progress; 3) 3 slides each of my largest temporary installations (at my Atlanta retrospective, and in Ridgefield, Conn. this summer); 4) one slide each of my Cleveland Center for C.A. & For Aids installations, which you know; 5) and only one <sup>new</sup> portable work — one of two I just finished for a show at the Steinbaum Gallery in New York this Dec.

I don't have slides of other new works on hand, but you must have the catalogue of my last year's show at Garyorie's: I have been putting all these series this past year (one of my most prolific), aside from being a finalist for half a dozen competitions.

Best,  
Athena



OCT 10 1990

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DEGREES

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Double Star: Antares, 1986-88, open brickwork maze, 10 x 56 x 64 ft., Cincinnati (Hyde Park), OH. Ohio State Arts Council grant.

Texattica, 1987, colored tile mural, ca. 8 x 18 ft., Parks & Christie Campbell residence, Fort Worth, TX.

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#### ONE-ARTIST EXHIBITIONS

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#### LITERATURE (selected)

Patricia Mathews, "Athena Tacha at the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art," Art in America, May 1990, p. 249, ill.

Athena Tacha, "From the Other Side: Public Artists on Public Art," Art Journal, Winter 1989, pp. 342-43, ill.

Thalia Gouma-Peterson, "Chaos as Order in Athena Tacha's Work," Athena Tacha: New Works, 1986-1989, Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, 1989, pp. 7-25, ill. (color).

Catherine and John Howett, Athena Tacha: Public Works, 1970-88, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 1989, pp. 5-12, ill. (color).

Erica Doss, "Athena Tacha's Cosmocentric Sculpture and Contemporary Public Art," Woman's Art Journal, Fall 1988/Winter 1989, pp. 38-44, ill.

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- Ellen H. Johnson, Modern Art and the Object, Thames and Hudson, London, 1976, p. 47, pl. 55.



Elizabeth McClelland, "Step-Sculptures of Athena Tacha," Mid-West Art, II, 10, Feb. 1976, pp. 14-15, ill.

Tara Collins, "Athena Tacha," Arts Magazine, Nov. 1975, p. 11, ill.

Lawrence Alloway, "Artists as Writers, II: The Realm of Language," Artforum, April 1974, pp. 33, 35, ill.

Ellen H. Johnson, "Art and Science: Athena Tacha's Evening Exhibition," Fine Arts (Cleveland), Nov. 3, 1969, p. 5.

(This biographical summary does not include any of the artist's "conceptual art" publications and films, or any of her activities as an art historian and museum curator, 1963-73, as Athena T. Spear.)



MAY 83

MAY 83

Brief biography of Athena Tacha, Professor of Art, Oberlin College, Oberlin OH.

Athena Tacha was born in Larissa, Greece in 1936 and has been living in Oberlin, Ohio since 1963, married to art historian Richard E. Spear. She has a M.A. in sculpture from the National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens (1959); a M.A. in art history from Oberlin College (1961); and a doctorate in esthetics from the Sorbonne University, Paris (1963).

She was curator of modern art at the Allen Art Museum of Oberlin College (1963-73), and has published two books and various articles on Rodin, Brancusi and other modern sculptors. Since 1973, she has been teaching sculpture at Oberlin College's art department. She has exhibited in many group shows throughout the world, and has had one-artist shows in a number of U.S. cities, including New York (Zabriskie Gallery, 1979 and 1981).

Three times she has been awarded first prize in sculpture at the "May Show" of the Cleveland Museum of Art (1968, 1971 and 1979), and has won sixteen competitions or commissions of large public sculpture. Twelve of these works have been executed so far, in concrete, stone, brick or painted steel: five in Ohio (Cleveland, 1976 and 1981; Oberlin, 1976; Columbus, 1976; and Toledo, 1980); one in Smithtown, L.I., NY (1977, N.Y. State Arts Council pilot project); one in Norfolk, Va. (1979, G.S.A. funding); one in Tucson, Az. (1981, N.E.A. matching grant); and one in Seattle (1982, Washington State Arts Council 1% commission).

The two most extensive articles on Athena Tacha's work have appeared in Landscape Architecture, May 1978, and in Artforum, Jan. 1981, the latter reprinted in the book Athena Tacha: Public Sculpture, Oberlin, Ohio, 1982.



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

*FULL NAME:*

*DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:*

*PRIMARY MEDIA*

*ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:*

*EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:*

*COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:*

*AWARDS:*

*PRESENT POSITION:*

\*\*\*\*\*

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



WORKS OWNED BY THE FOLLOWING MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS:

Cleveland Museum of Art

Allen Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio

Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Agnes Saalfeld Collection, Concord, Mass.

Paul Walter Collection, New York

Ellen Johnson Collection, Oberlin, Ohio

Katherine White (Merkel-Reswick), Los Angeles, Cal.

Robert Light Collection, Santa Barbara, Cal.

Robert Morris, New York

Graham Gund Collection, Cambridge, Mass.

Lucy Lippard Collection, New York

Yannis Xenakis, Paris

Parks & Christie Campbell Collection, Fort Worth, Texas

Louise Nevelson, New York

Robert G. Donneley Collection, Chicago, Ill.

Katharine Kuh Collection, New York

Nancy Singer Collection, St. Louis, Mo.

Doris Wiener Collection, New York

Suzi Gablik Collection, London

Power Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.

University of Utah Art Gallery, Salt Lake City

Prudential Insurance

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

(and many other private collections)



Biographical Summary of ATHENA TACHA

APR 79

Born in Larissa, Greece, 1936

Teaches Sculpture at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1973 to present.

Represented by Zabriskie Gallery, 29 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019

Degrees:

M.A. in Sculpture, National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, 1959.

M.A. in Art History, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1961.

Ph.D. in Aesthetics, University of Paris (Sorbonne), France, 1963.

Awards - Fellowships:

First prize in Sculpture, May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968.

First prize in Sculpture, May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1971.

Fellow, Center for Advanced Visual Studies, M.I.T., Cambridge, January, 1974.

National Endowment for the Arts, Artist's Fellowship (II), 1975.

Ohio Arts Council award for the Visual Arts, 1976.

Public Commissions:

Tension Arches, 1975-76, painted stainless steel, 12 x 24 x 2 ft.,  
Cleveland Area Arts Council Bicentennial Sculpture Commission,  
Huron Road Mall, Cleveland, Ohio.

Streams, 1975-76, sandstone, pumice rocks and lake pebbles, 10 x 30 x 20 ft.,  
Vine Street Park, Oberlin, Ohio. Built with National Endowment for the  
Arts and Ohio Arts Council grants.

Double Tension Arches, 1975-76, painted corten steel, 16 x 20 x 20 ft.,  
Ashland Chemical Company, Columbus, Ohio.

Tide Park, 1976-77, gunnite, evergreens, water and mural, 25 x 75 x 30 ft.,  
Smithtown, Long Island, NY. Pilot project of the New York State Arts Council.

Interlock, 1978-79, dyed concrete and water, 9 x 80 x 50 ft.,  
Federal Office Building, Granby Mall and City Hall Avenue, Norfolk, VA.  
Commissioned by the General Services Administration.

One-artist Exhibitions:

Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, 1966.

Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio, 1969.

"Phaenomena," Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, 1969.



"Forms of Matter," New Gallery, Cleveland, 1969 (benefit show for E.A.T.).

"Sculpture in Paper and Twine," Cooper School of Art, Cleveland, Ohio, 1971 (including films by the artist).

Gallery of the Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster College, St. Louis, 1973 (including films).

"Exploration of the Self: Photographic and Textual Studies," Project Inc. Gallery, Cambridge, Mass., 1974.

"Cut-in Sculptures," 93 Crosby Street (loft show), New York, 1975.

Rutgers University, Douglass College Library, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1977.

"Tape Sculptures," Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, Oct. 21-Nov. 3, 1978 (catalogue).

Zabriskie Gallery, New York, NY, Feb. 6-March 3, 1979.

Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio, May 12-June 19, 1979.

#### Selected Group Exhibitions:

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966; 1967; 1968; 1969; 1971; 1974; 1977.

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, 1969; 1970; 1974.

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Blossom Music Center, Peninsula, Ohio, 1971.

Six Artists, Akron Art Institute, Dec. 1972-Jan. 1973.

"Ca. 7,500" (organized by Lucy Lippard), Valencia, Calif.; Hartford, Conn.; Philadelphia, Penna.; Boston; Northampton, Mass.; Minneapolis; London, England; New York; Seattle; Poughkeepsie, NY; May 1973-Nov. 1974.

Conceptual Art, Women's Inter-art Center, New York, NY, 1973.

Spring Invitational: Cynthia Carlson, Joyce Kozloff, Athena Tacha, Ann Wilson; A.I.R. Gallery, New York, 1974.

Nine Artists: Women's Invitational, N.O.V.A. Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio, 1975.

Wooster Invitational (Six Artists), College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster, Ohio, 1975.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, NY, 1975.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Tacha; C.U.N.Y., Graduate Center Mall, New York, 1975.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, NY, 1976.

Sculpture 76 (15 large outdoor sculptures), Greenwich, Conn., 1976.

Scott Burton, Athena Tacha, George Trakas, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York, 1976.



2nd Intern. Festival of Women's Films, Cinema Studio, New York, 1976.

Contact: Women and Nature (organized by Lucy Lippard), Greenwich Library, Greenwich, Conn., 1977.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healy, Miss, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1977.

Proposals for Sawyer Point, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct. 7-Nov. 27, 1977.

Artwords and Bookworks, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Feb. 28-March 30, 1978. Travelling subsequently to Franklin Furnace, New York, June 24-August 26, 1978; Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, Sept. 15-29, 1978; Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, Oct. 18-Nov. 25, 1978.

Literature (selected);

Ellen H. Johnson, "Art and Science: Athena Tacha's Evening Exhibition," Fine Arts, (Cleveland), November 3, 1969, p. 5.

Lawrence Alloway, "Artists as Writers, II: The Realm of Language," Artforum, April 1974, pp. 33 & 35, ill.

Art & Cinema (New York), I, 3, 1973-74, pp. 14-15, ill.; II, 1, 1974-75, p. 20, ill.

Tara Collins, "Athena Tacha," Arts Magazine, Nov. 1975, p. 11, ill.

Elizabeth McClelland, "Step-Sculptures of Athena Tacha," Mid-West Art, II 10, Feb. 1976, pp. 14-15, ill.

Ellen H. Johnson, Modern Art and the Object, London, Thames and Hudson, 1976, p. 47, pl. 55.

Lucy Lippard, From the Center, New York, Dutton, 1976, p. 146, ill.

A. Sky & M. Stone (SITE), Unbuilt America (intro. by G. R. Collins), New York, McGraw-Hill, 1976, p. 242, ill.

Catherine Howett, "New Directions in Environmental Art," Landscape Architecture, Jan. 1977, pp. 39 & 41, color ill.

Lucy Lippard, "Art Outdoors, In and Out of the Public Domain," Studio International, 2, March-April 1977, p. 85, ill.

Van Foley (interviewer), "Three Sculptors: Helen Escobedo, Lila Katzen, Athena Tacha," New Orleans Review, V, 3, 1977, pp. 224-33, ill. pp. 231-33.

Athena Tacha, "Rhythm as Form," Landscape Architecture, May 1978, pp. 196-205, ill. (color). Reprinted in New Performance (San Francisco), I, 3, 1978 pp. 18-23.

Eleanor Munro, The Originals: Women in Art, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1979, pp.

(This biographical summary does not include any of the artist's publications, or any of her activities as an art historian and museum curator, 1963-73.)



MAY 14 1974

Curriculum Vitae of ATHENA TACHA

Born in Larissa, Greece, 1936

Lives in Oberlin, Ohio. Associate Professor of Sculpture, Oberlin College

Degrees:

M.A. in sculpture, National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, 1959.

M.A. in art history, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1961.

Ph.D. in aesthetics, University of Paris (Sorbonne), France, 1963.

One-artist exhibitions:

Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, May 31 - June 14, 1966.

Akron Art Institute, January 15 - February 16, 1969.

Wooster College Art Museum, Ohio, April 1969.

"Phaenomena," Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, April 27, 1969.

"Forms of Matter," New Gallery, Cleveland, November 2 & 3, 1969 (benefit show for E.A.T.).

Sculpture in Paper and Twine, Cooper School of Art, Cleveland, September 26 - October 18, 1971 (including films by the artist).

Gallery of the Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster College, St. Louis, March 19 - April 7, 1973 (including films and videotapes).

"Exploration of the Self: photographic and textual studies," Project Inc. Gallery, Cambridge, Mass., May 4, 1974.



Group exhibitions:

2.

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966.

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1967.

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968 (first prize in sculpture).

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, January 11 - February 16, 1969.

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1969.

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, February 21 - March 22, 1970.

Multiples Gallery, New York, December 1970.

E.A.T. Group Show, Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, January 4 - 25, 1971

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1971 (first prize in sculpture).

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Blossom Music Center, Peninsula, Ohio, Summer 1971.

E.A.T. Group Show, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Nov. 8-Dec. 4, 1971 (films).

8 & Super-8 mm. International Film Festival, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Aug. 28-31, 1972.

Six Artists: Breidel, Davidovich, Eubel, Lucas, Pearson, Tacha, Akron Art Institute, Dec. 17, 1972 - Jan. 28, 1973 (including films and videotapes).

Oberlin Artists, Allen Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio, April 2 - 22, 1973.

Conceptual Women Artists (organized by Lucy Lippard), California Institute of the Arts, Valencia; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn.; Moore College, Philadelphia; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Smith College, Northampton, Mass.; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Garage Gallery, London, England; May 1973 - April 1974.

Artists' Books (initiated by Moore College of Art, Philadelphia), Pratt Graphics Center Gallery, New York, Oct. 1973; University Art Museum, Berkeley, Univ. of Calif., Jan. 1974 (hors catalogue).

Conceptual Art, Women's Inter-art Center, New York, Nov. 8 - Dec. 6, 1973.

Ohio Painting and Sculpture, Dayton Art Institute, Feb. 17 - March 16, 1974

Spring Invitational: Cynthia Carlson, Joyce Kozloff, Athena Tacha, Ann Wilson, A.I.R. Gallery, New York, March 30 - April 17, 1974 (Charles River step-sculptures model).

Oberlin Artists, Allen Art Museum, Oberlin, Ohio, April 2 - 22, 1974.

In Her Own Image, S. Fleisher Art Memorial (administered by the Philadelphia Museum of Art), Philadelphia, April 5 - May 10, 1974.

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1974.

Films by Women Artists (in Focus: Philadelphia Focuses on Women in the Visual Arts festival), Annenberg Center, Philadelphia, June 7, 1974.



Collections:

Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.

Katherine Reswick, Los Angeles, California.

Ellen H. Johnson, Oberlin, Ohio.

Carl and Thalia Peterson, Oberlin, Ohio.

Paul F. Walter, New York, New York.

Robert M. Light, Boston, Massachusetts.

Albrecht and Agnes Saalfeld, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Graham Gund, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

(and other private collections)

Literature:

Ellen H. Johnson, "Art and Science: Athena Tacha's Evening Exhibition," Fine Arts (Cleveland), November 3, 1969, p. 5.

A. D. Coleman, "Latent Image," Village Voice (New York), February 22, 1973, p. 20.

Lawrence Alloway, "Artists as Writers, II: The Realm of Language," Artforum, April 1974, pp. 33 & 35, ill.



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Please complete and return the following questionnaire for our reference file on Cleveland Artists.

*FULL NAME:*

*DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:*

*PRIMARY MEDIA*

*ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.:*

*EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:*

*COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:*

*AWARDS:*

*PRESENT POSITION:*

\*\*\*\*\*

We would appreciate any information regarding subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships.  
Thank you for your cooperation.



MAY 66 RECD

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear

*Miss Tacha,*

We are trying to build a biographical record of Cleveland Artists for reference.  
May we enlist your assistance with the following data?

FULL NAME: ATHENA TACHA (*Mrs. Spear*) MEDIA: SCULPTURE

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: LARISSA, GREECE; APRIL 23, 1936

ART TRAINING - Schools, Scholarships, etc.: \*

- NATIONAL ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS, ATHENS, 1954-1959  
(1955-59 with scholarship of the NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF GREECE)

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN:

- CLEVELAND MAY SHOW, 1966
- "ONE-MAN-SHOW", OBERLIN (CO-OP LITTLE GALLERY), MAY 31 - JUNE 14, 1966

COLLECTIONS WHICH NOW INCLUDE YOUR WORK:

- MR. & MRS. JOSEPH COAKLEY, CLEVELAND
- MRS. KATHERINE MERKEL, GATES MILL, OHIO
- MISS ELLEN H. JOHNSON, OBERLIN

AWARDS:

PRESENT POSITION: ASSISTANT CURATOR, ALLEN ART MUSEUM, OBERLIN, OHIO

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We would greatly appreciate it if you would inform us of subsequent awards, purchases, exhibitions and scholarships. Thank you for your cooperation.

*Ann Zeutshler Lucie*  
Assistant Curator of Paintings

- \* - M.A. in ART HISTORY, OBERLIN COLLEGE, OBERLIN, OHIO, 1961
- Ph.D. in AESTHETICS, UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, PARIS, FRANCE, 1963  
(Graduate assistantship, OBERLIN COLLEGE, 1960-61; graduate fellowship from the NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF GREECE, 1961-63)



Curriculum vitae of Athena Tacha

SCULPTOR (mostly)

Degrees:

M.A. in sculpture, National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, 1959

M.A. in art history, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1961

Ph. D. in aesthetics, University of Paris, France, 1963

One-man exhibitions:

Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, May 31-June 14, 1966

Akron Art Institute, Jan. 15-Feb. 16, 1969

Wooster College Art Museum, April, 1969

"Phaenomena," Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, April 27, 1969

"Forms of Matter," New Gallery, Cleveland, Nov. 2 & 3, 1969 (benefit show for E.A.T.)

Group exhibitions:

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1967

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968 (first prize in sculpture)

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, Jan. 11-Feb. 16, 1969

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1969

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, Feb. 21-Mar. 22, 1970

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1971 (first prize in sculpture)

Multiples Gallery, New York, December 1970

E.A.T. Show, Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, Jan. 4 - 25, 1971

Collections:

Katherine Merkel Reswick, Los Angeles, Calif.

Ellen H. Johnson, Oberlin, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peterson, Oberlin, Ohio

Paul F. Walter, New York, N.Y.

Robert Light, Boston, Mass.

Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht Saalfeld, Cleveland, Ohio

Gilford Industries, Oberlin, Ohio

Graham Gund, Cambridge, Mass.

and other private collections



Art Publications by Athena Tacha

BOOKLETS:

|                                                             |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Ten Projects for Staircases, 1970-71</u>                 | \$2.00 |
| <u>Spatial Disorientation Staircases and Ramps, 1971-72</u> | \$1.00 |
| <u>Heredity Study I, 1970-71</u>                            | \$2.00 |
| <u>Heredity Study II, 1970-71</u>                           | \$1.75 |

POSTER-VERSIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES:

|                                                               |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Expressions #1 (A study of Facial Motions), April 1972</u> | \$1.50 |
| <u>Gestures #1 (A study of Finger Positions), Spring 1973</u> | \$1.50 |
| (Unfolded, in tube: \$2.50)                                   |        |

POCKET-PIECES:

|                                                  |        |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <u>Different Notions of Cleanlines, 1972</u>     | \$1.50 |
| <u>The Way My Mind Works, 1972-73</u>            | \$1.50 |
| <u>My Mother: A Psychological Portrait, 1973</u> | \$1.50 |

Available from the artist, 291 Forest Street, Oberlin, Ohio, 44074.  
Also from George Wittenborn Bookstore, 1018 Madison Avenue, New York City 10021  
(except posters).



NOV 12 1976

Curriculum Vitae of ATHENA TACHA

Born in Larissa, Greece, 1936.

Degrees:

M.A. in sculpture, National Academy of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, 1959.

M.A. in art history, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, 1961.

Ph.D. in aesthetics, University of Paris (Sorbonne), France, 1963.

Awards - Fellowships:

First prize in sculpture, May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968.

First prize in sculpture, May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1971.

Fellow, Center for Advanced Visual Studies, M.I.T., Cambridge, January, 1974.

National Endowment for the Arts, Artist's Fellowship (II), 1975.

Ohio Arts Council award for the Visual Arts, 1976.

One-artist exhibitions:

Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, 1966.

Akron Art Institute, Akron, Ohio, 1969.

"Phaenomena," Little Gallery, Co-op Bookstore, Oberlin, Ohio, 1969.

"Forms of Matter," New Gallery, Cleveland, 1969 (benefit show for E.A.T.).

"Sculpture in Paper and Twine," Cooper School of Art, Cleveland, 1971  
(including films by the artist).

Gallery of the Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster College, St. Louis, 1973  
(including films).

"Exploration of the Self: photographic and textual studies," Project Inc.  
Gallery, Cambridge, Mass., 1974.

"Cut-in Sculptures," 93 Crosby Street (loft show), New York, 1975.

Rutgers University, Douglass College Library, New Brunswick, N.J., 1977.



Selected group exhibitions:

May Show, Cleveland Museum of Art, 1966; 1967; 1968; 1969; 1971; 1974.

All-Ohio Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, Dayton Art Institute, 1969;  
1970; 1974.

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Blossom Music Center, Peninsula, Ohio, 1971.

Six Artists, Akron Art Institute, Dec. 1972-Jan. 1973.

"Ca. 7,500" (organized by Lucy Lippard), Valencia, Calif.; Hartford, Conn.;  
Philadelphia; Boston; Northampton, Mass.; Minneapolis; London, England;  
New York; Seattle; Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; May 1973-Nov. 1974.

Conceptual Art, Women's Inter-art Center, New York, 1973.

Spring Invitational: Cynthia Carlson, Joyce Kozloff, Athena Tacha, Ann Wilson;  
A.I.R. Gallery, New York, 1974.

Nine Artists: Women's Invitational, N.O.V.A. Gallery, Cleveland, 1975.

Wooster Invitational (Six Artists), College of Wooster Art Museum, Wooster,  
Ohio, 1975.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healey, Tacha; Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1975.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healey, Tacha; C.U.N.Y., Graduate Center Mall,  
New York, 1975.

Visiting artists' and faculty show, Kent State University Art Gallery, 1975.  
Salute the Women, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, 1976.  
Sculpture 76 (15 large outdoor sculptures), Greenwich, Conn., 1976.  
Art 7 '76 (art fair), Basel, Switzerland, 1976.

Scott Burton, Athena Tacha, George Trakas, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton,  
N.Y., 1976.

Site Sculpture: Hamrol, Healey, Tacha, Zabriskie Gallery, New York, 1976.  
2nd Intern. Festival of Women's Films, Cinema Studio, New York, 1976.

Collections:

Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio.

Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College.

Katherine White, Los Angeles, California.

Ellen H. Johnson, Oberlin, Ohio.

Paul F. Walter, New York, N.Y.

( continued )



Albrecht and Agnes Saalfeld, Greenwich, Connecticut.

Graham Gund, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

(and other private collections)

Public Commissions:

Pearl Alley Step-Sculpture, 1974, concrete and red granite, 200 ft. long;  
for the side of the new Ohio State Office Building, Columbus (cancelled  
the same year for lack of funds).

Tension Arches, 1975, painted stainless steel, 12 x 24 x 2 ft.,  
Cleveland Area Arts Council Bicentennial Sculpture Commission,  
Huron Road Mall, Cleveland .

Oberlin Step-Sculpture, 1975-76, sandstone, pumice rocks and lake pebbles,  
10 x 30 x 20 ft., Vine St. Park, Oberlin, Ohio. Built  
with National Endowment for the Arts and Ohio Arts Council grants.  
Sculpture Park, 1976, concrete, pebbles, myrtle, water and mural, 14 x 75 x 30 ft.,  
Smithtown, L.I. Pilot project of the N.Y. State Arts Council.  
Double Arches, 1975-76, painted corten steel, 16 x 20 x 20 ft., Ashland  
Chemical Co., Dublin, Ohio.

Literature (selected):

Ellen H. Johnson, "Art and Science: Athena Tacha's Evening Exhibition,"  
Fine Arts, (Cleveland), November 3, 1969, p.5.

A.D. Coleman, "Latent Image," Village Voice, February 22, 1973, p. 20.

Lawrence Alloway, "Artists as Writers, II: The Realm of Language," Artforum,  
April 1974, pp. 33 & 35, ill.

Cindy Nemser, "In Her Own Image," Feminist Art Journal, Spring 1974,  
pp. 16 & 17, ill.

Art & Cinema (New York), I, 3, 1973-74, pp. 14-15, ill.; II, 1, 1974-75,  
p. 20, ill.

Lucy Lippard, "Transformation Art," Ms., Oct. 1975, p. 33.

Tara Collins, "Athena Tacha," Arts Magazine, Nov. 1975, p.11, ill.

Elizabeth McClelland, "Step-Sculptures of Athena Tacha," Mid-West Art,  
II, 10, Feb. 1976, pp. 14-15, ill.

"Athena Tacha: Artist" (interview with Sarah Maclay), Ruby Tuesday (Oberlin),  
March 1976, pp. 12-13.

[Athena Tacha is Associate Professor of Sculpture, Oberlin College.]